



April 23, 2010

You may see and hear stories in the media about the **upcoming budget**. We are still experiencing difficult times in the economy and with lagging City revenues. While I firmly believe the long term outlook for the City of Franklin is positive, we must weather these challenging times. I have asked all department directors to look at options to reduce budgets further. To assist in identifying ideas and options for reductions I asked each department to develop scenarios for reducing their departmental budgets by six percent from the current year budget. To be clear, this is a target to generate ideas to reduce costs, not an across the board cut. As I have told reporters and many of you over the past 16 months, layoffs are an option of last resort. Like any family we too have to live within our means. I thank all of you for your continued dedication to providing excellent service to the community and I will continue to keep you up to date during this challenging process. While this is a tough time economically, I have witnessed our City team rising to the occasion every day to serve the citizens of Franklin. I know that will continue and I want you to know how very much your dedication and professionalism is appreciated.

The **State of The City** event was a great success! Thank you to all employees who assisted with pulling together an informative presentation. All of the booths were very impressive. Our employees at the event were all complimented on their professionalism and educational tables. It was a lot of fun to show the nearly 500 citizens attending the event some of the many great things our City team does for the community. I'd especially like to thank the core team who met for the last two months to bring this all together; **MaryAnn Buentello** and **Monique McCullough** for helping develop the message and for organizing the refreshments and working with the Factory staff and coordinating with the departments, **Milissa Reierson**, **Ray Foglia** and **Andrew Cloud** for helping develop message content and for producing and editing the videos for the presentation and working with the event production crew, and **Vernon Gerth** who assisted with content. There were also many others outside the City who provided assistance with the presentation. This was truly a team effort and we've heard nothing but positive comments about the event.

The **Main Street Festival is happening this weekend in Franklin**. The event begins Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and runs through Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. Thank you to all City Staff who worked with the **Heritage Foundation** to make this event a success. **The Solid Waste Department** will have a booth at the festival promoting the new **Blue Bag**

Recycling Program. They will also have a table at **Whole Foods Grocery** In Cool Springs at their Earth Day event from 11-2:00 p.m. promoting the **Blue Bag Recycling Program**. Take a look at our new blue bag character...**Buddy Blue Bag!**



To keep track of all that's going on with the Blue Bag curbside recycling program, check out our Blue Bag webpage: <http://www.franklintn.gov/?page=640>

Fire Marshal Andy King and **Building and Neighborhood Services Director Gary Luffman** spoke to a large group of home builders, architects, engineers, and subcontractors regarding various changes in the **new Building Codes** earlier this week. It was a two hour meeting and was well received. This is one way we educate our building professional on new changes to the building codes. We had heavy emphasis on the new energy code requirements for dwellings and debated the proposed sprinkler requirements for dwellings scheduled to go into effect next year. We also notified them on the time and dates our Aldermen will be considering the new changes. Time was also spent on the new policies and processes for plan review and inspections

This past weekend was **Arbor/Earth day at Pinkerton Park**. Lots of fun was had by all...especially on the ziplines! I can confirm the rumor that Mayor Schroer, Vernon Gerth and I each went down the zipline (individually, not together!). Check out event photos from the **Tennessean** at <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Site=DN&Date=20100419&Category=WILLIAMSON&ArtNo=4190805&Ref=PH&Profile=2148>

Our condolences go out to friends and family of former City employee **Willie Joe King** who passed away April 18. Mr. King was an employee of the City in our **Solid Waste Department** for almost 10 years. Willie is survived by wife, Nellie King; sons, Shane King and Joe King; daughters, Kitty King and Mandy (Clay) Polk; brothers, John Henry (Deborah) King and Jimmy Dean King; sisters, Susie Cartwright, Ella (Dewayne) Reynolds and Ida McEwen; and nine grandchildren. He will be dearly missed.

Here's hoping the weather cooperates this weekend for the **Main Street Festival**. Hope to see you there! Our thanks to all who help make this great event possible.

Excellence, Innovation, Teamwork, Integrity, Action-Oriented